

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1.-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A fired, porous ceramic casting core ~~for use in investment casting~~ having a configuration to form an interior surface of a metallic casting and including an aqueous emulsion of a water-insoluble polymer in pores of said core before drying.

13. (original) The core of claim 12 wherein the water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic, styrene butadiene, polyvinyl acetate, styrene acrylic, vinyl acetate acrylic, vinyl-vinylidene chloride, epoxy, polyvinyl butylrol, and polyurethane.

14. (original) The core of claim 13 wherein the core includes cross-linked acrylic polymer.

15. (currently amended) The core of claim 12 wherein the core includes about 0.2% to about 5% by weight polymer solids after drying to remove water.